

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated September 27, 2006. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is requested. The claims have been amended in each instance to more distinctly claim the subject matter that the Applicants regard as the invention. An explanation of each amendment appears below.

Claims 9-14 and 21-29

Claims 9-14 and 21-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Applicant is amending claims 9-14 and 21-29 to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101. In particular, independent claims 9, 21, and 25, have each been amended to claim a computer readable medium that stores instructions for causing a processor to perform processing steps to reduce the number of samples read from a texture map. The amended claims now recite tangible, and therefore, patentable subject matter as defined by 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claims 10-14, 22-24, and 26-29 are dependent on claims 9, 21, and 25, respectively, and have been amended to conform with amended claims 9, 21, and 25.

Claims 9-14 and 21-29 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant is amending claims 9-14 and 21-29 to comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Reducing the number of samples read from a texture map is advantageous since reading samples that are stored in memory consumes memory bandwidth. In a processing system with limited memory bandwidth, reading fewer samples may improve processing throughput and texture filtering performance as described in paragraph [0005] of the present application. Therefore, "reducing the number of samples read from the texture map" does provide a specific and substantial utility, and amended claims 9-14 and 21-29 comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

For these reasons, Applicant submits that amended claims 9-14 and 21-29 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections of these claims.

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Atty. Dkt. No. NVDA/P000850**Conclusion**

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed. Applicants reserve the right to subsequently take up prosecution of the claims as originally filed in this application in a continuation, a continuation-in-part and/or a divisional application. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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